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2d Light Armored Recon Battalion Marine awarded medal for life-saving actions

BY SGT. GLORIA LEPKO
2nd Marine Division

United States Marines are trained to respond to distress at a moment's notice. From the beginning of basic training, traits like decisiveness, initiative, and unselfishness are instilled in their hearts and minds. One Marine proved to be the culmination of what the Marine Corps stands for when presented with a life-or-death situation recently.

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Matthew T. Ubl, a light armored vehicle repair technician with Alpha Company (Co.), 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (2d LAR), 2d Marine Division (MARDIV), received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for lifesaving

actions on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 4.

The medal is presented to Marines and Sailors for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. On December 16, 2019, Ubl drove through Richlands, North Carolina when he noticed a man lying unresponsive on the ground in the vicinity a gas station. Without hesitation, he secured the area and immediately proceeded with rescue measures until paramedics arrived to treat the man.

"My first thought was to make sure no one else was hurt and then I stepped in and started doing CPR and chest compressions to try to get a pulse back," Ubl said. "I just wanted to keep him breathing until the ambulance got there."

Ubl executed cardiopul-

monary resuscitation for 15 minutes on the unconscious civilian, which ultimately contributed to saving the man's life. Even after first-responders arrived, Ubl continued to assist by utilizing their automated external defibrillator.

"I was tired and my shoulders were giving out, but the adrenaline just kicked in and I gave my best and helped out however I could," said Ubl. "I was just being a good person. This is what we train for, this is what we do, and helping another person is the best thing we can do."

Aside from the basic Tactical Combat Casualty Care skills taught in Marine Corps basic training, Ubl had no prior experience with first aid. According to his command, Ubl is a humble Marine who brings pride to his unit on a daily basis.

"Cpl. Ubl is the kind of Marine that never asks for any sort of recognition or praise," said Capt. Robert Mortenson, the company commander of Alpha Co., 2d LAR. "He's not out to gain accolades but is one of the hardest working Marines in the company. So, it was no surprise me that he was the one who saved that man's life."

When the unit heard the news of their Marine's heroic actions, they jumped into action to acknowledge Ubl as an example to the Marines around him.

"We immediately started talking about how we can recognize him for this," Mortenson said. "Most people are going to drive right by, but the fact that Cpl. Ubl stopped and took charge of the situa-



Photos by Sgt. Stormy Mendez

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Matthew T. Ubl, a light armored vehicle repair technician with Alpha Company (Co.), 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR), 2d Marine Division (MARDIV), poses for a portrait on Camp Lejeune, June 4. Ubl received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his efforts executing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for 15 minutes on an unknown, unconscious civilian, which contributed to saving the man's life.

tion to save a man's life, that's the kind of marine that we want to recognize. This is what Marines do on a daily basis; we rise above the expectations of the average person."

2d LAR recognized Ubl's initiative and perseverance under extreme

pressure through a ceremony where he was awarded the medal for keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. His selfless efforts and quick thinking stand as a reminder of the Marine Corps' core values

of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

"Everyone says I'm a hero, but I feel like anyone else would have done the same thing," said Ubl. "Just because I did it doesn't make me special. I was just the right person at the right time."



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Christopher Conner, the commanding officer of Alpha Company (Co.), 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR), 2d Marine Division, pins a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (NAVCOMM) on Cpl. Matthew T. Ubl.

NMCCL moving to Phase 2 of Reopening of Services

COURTESY STORY
NMCCCL

Effective Monday, June 08, NMCCCL will enter Phase 2 of Reopening of Services. During Phase 2, NMCCCL will continue a gradual increase of services.

Several of our COVID-19 policies will remain in effect during Phase 2:

- Face Covering Policy – All beneficiaries and approved visitors MUST wear a face covering in the facility.
- Galley Operations – Authorized patrons are NMCCL staff and approved visitors only; no cash accepted but debit/credit cards, Apple and Samsung pay methods are accepted.
- Limited Entrances to Medical Center- Beneficiaries and visitors enter the facility through Quarter-

deck or Emergency/Trauma Department entrances.

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune (NMCCL) is working closely with military and public health officials to mitigate health risks and spread of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

All military personnel are encouraged to follow guidance from military medical authorities and the CDC. Civilian employees, dependents and retirees should also follow CDC guidance.

For more information about NMCCCL's Phase 2 of Reopening of Services, please visit <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl/News/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>.

For more information on COVID-19, visit <https://tricare.mil/coronavirus>.

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER CAMP LEJEUNE

PHASE 2 REOPENING OF SERVICES

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune will be increasing services as of June 8, 2020.

COVID-19 policies in effect:

Visitor Restrictions - One (1) healthy adult visitor allowed after on-site screening for:
All outpatient clinics (including Family Medicine), Emergency/Trauma Department, Labor & Delivery, Laboratory, Mental Health, Multi-Service Ward (including Intensive Care Unit), Pediatrics (visitor must be parent or caregiver), Pharmacy in Medical Center.

Face Covering Policy - All beneficiaries and approved visitors must wear a face covering in facilities.

Entrance Restrictions - Beneficiaries enter building through Quarterdeck or the Emergency/Trauma Department.

CLINIC	STATUS
Acute Respiratory Clinic	Will continue to operate out of NH200 separate from Pediatrics and Dermatology.
Blood Donor Center	Maintains current operations.
Branch Clinics	Maintains current operations.
Case Management	Increasing face-to-face appointments; call (910) 450-3422.
Dental Services	Maintains current operations.
Dermatology	Increasing face-to-face appointments; continuing telemedicine.
Emergency/Trauma Department	Maintains current operations.
Ear, Nose & Throat	Increasing appointment schedules.
Family Medicine	Increasing appointment schedules.

Galley	Seated dining resumes Monday, June 8 for staff and approved visitors only; no cash.
General Surgery	Increasing surgery schedules.
Immunizations	Maintains current operations.
Internal Medicine	Increasing appointment schedules.
Laboratory	Maintains current operations.
Labor & Delivery	Maintains current operations.
Mental Health	Continue small group capabilities; maintains social distancing.
Nursing Services	Maintains current operations.
OB/GYN	Increasing appointment schedules.
Orthopedics & Podiatry	Increasing appointment schedules.
Optometry	Increasing appointment schedules.
Ophthalmology	Increasing appointment schedules.
Pain Management	Increasing appointment schedules.
Pediatrics	Increasing appointment schedules.
Pharmacy	Maintains current operations; MCX Pharmacy returns to normal hours Monday, June 8.*
Radiology	Increasing appointment schedules.
Urology	Increasing appointment schedules.

2nd MLG recognizes units for outstanding achievement during Fiscal Year 2020



BY LANCE CPL. SEAIRA MOORE

2nd Marine Logistics Group

Battalions around 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) were formally recognized during a ceremony at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, May 28.

The units received the following awards for excellence in the participation of the 2nd MLG Unit Recognition Program during the second quarter of fiscal year 2020:

- Fidelity Award: 2nd Maintenance Battalion

- Fighter Award: Combat Logistics Battalion 2
- Fitness Award: Combat Logistics Battalion 2
- Family Award: 2nd Transportation Support Battalion

- Future Award: 2nd Transportation Support Battalion
- Unit of the Quarter Award: Combat Logistics Battalion 2

“[The MLG] wanted to put a focus on innovation, strong leadership, taking care of Marines, and increasing camaraderie and unit pride,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Gawronski, as-

sistant chief of staff, force preservation section, 2nd MLG. “The awards program was a way to highlight those commands that were already doing those things, while communicating the importance of it to the others.”

The awards were named after the “6 F’s” of Resiliency: Fidelity, Fighter, Fitness, Family, Finance, and Future. The Unit of the Quarter Award was determined by the number of “6 F’s” awards received, as well as placing in Commander’s Cup athletic competitions.

“Receiving the Unit of the Quarter Award provides well-deserved recognition for the Marines and Sailors of CLB-2. Our battalion prioritizes the basics, focusing on MOS and tactical proficiency, but also maintaining the all-Marine concept,” said Lt. Col. Scott Clippinger, battalion commander of Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd MLG. “Receiving both the “fighter” and “fitness” award for the quarter is a true reflection of the efforts our Marines put forth daily in meeting the standards

and then working to exceed that standard.”

The awards were earned for distinct reasons: The Fidelity Award based on professional military education completion rates and annual training; the Fighter Award for annual marksmanship qualification rates, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program certifications, and swim qualifications; the Fitness Award for annual physical fitness and combat fitness test scores; the Family Award for participation in family related events,

courses, and retreats; and the Future Award for college courses, innovation challenges, and career designation rates.

“Good units don’t have to cram for inspections or exercises, because they do the right things all the time, which make them better prepared. Their people understand what’s expected of them and have the authority to act as required,” said Lt. Col. Gawronski. “They actively seek out innovative means to accomplish tasks and to make their unit more efficient.”



Fidelity Award
2nd Maintenance Battalion



Fitness Award
Combat Logistics Battalion 2



Future Award
2nd Transportation Support Battalion



Fighter Award
Combat Logistics Battalion 2



Family Award
2nd Transportation Support Battalion



Unit of the Quarter Award
Combat Logistics Battalion 2

Photos by Lance Cpl. Scott Jenkins

OFF-LIMITS

The following businesses are designated by the base commander as “off-limits”

CAMP LEJEUNE REGION:

Atheas Attics at 420 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington.
Bell Auto Salvage II at 136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert.
Best Exxon at 2945 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Club Phoenix at 209 East 5th St., Greenville.
Dash-In at 1316 Hargett St., Jacksonville.
Drive Thru Mini Mart at 2729 Commerce Road, Jacksonville.
D’s Drive Thru (AKA: Raul’s Drive Thru) at 226 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.
D’s Quick Mart at 2840 Highway 258 West, Richlands.
Expressions at 419 South College Rd., #39, Wilmington.
Express Way at 1261 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.
Golden Dragon (AKA) Tokyo Asian House at 1850 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.
Highlands Tobacco aka Piney Green
Tobacco at 835 Piney Green Road, Jacksonville.
Highway 24 Tobacco at 1448 West Corbet Ave. Jacksonville.
Hubert Tobacco at 393 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
J&N Grocery at 1142 Beulaville Highway, Richlands.
Karen Huffman’s Cleaning Jacksonville.
King’s Tobacco Drive Thru at 1796 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.
Laird’s Auto and Truck Repair (U-Haul Rental) at 1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville.
MB Super Discount at 800 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington.
Moe’s Mart at 2105 Belgrade-Swansboro Rd., Maysville.
Nash Market at 237 New River Drive, Jacksonville.
OJ’s Tobacco and Vapor at 8900 Richlands Highway, Richlands.
One Stop Shop at 501 Corbin St., Jacksonville.
*Precision Motor Sports at 1321 Lake Cole Road, Jacksonville.
Price is Right Lawn Design in Jacksonville.
Reid’s Mart at 461 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
Sahara Hookah Lounge at 917 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.
Saint Thomas Custom Homes at 3560 McArthur Rd., Broadway.

Smart Buy at 375 Jacksonville Mall, Jacksonville. (currently not open, but has history of reappearing)
Speedy’s Drive Thru at 357 Henderson Drive, Jacksonville.
Sun House Vapor and Tobacco at 2840 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Super-Fast Drive Thru Mini Mart at 1005 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.
Tobacco at 521 Yopp Rd., Unit 106, Jacksonville.
Tobacco Leaf at 343K Western Blvd., Jacksonville.
Triple C Diesel Performance and Mobile Repair
602 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Veterans Affairs Service Jacksonville. (This is a private organization not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Outpatient Clinic, nor Onslow County Veteran Services.)

MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA:

98 Cent Only Store
(Big Daddy) Wesley’s Grocery
Coastal Smoke Shop
Expressions
Friday’s Night Club (AKA: Club Insomnia, Club Classics, Infinity Lounge)
Flyers at 400 Fontana Blvd., Havelock.
H&D Express (AKA: Citgo)
Nadine’s Food Mart
Tobacco Outlet (Havelock and New Bern)
Tobacco Shop & Gifts (Beaufort and New Bern)
Tobacco Town
Tobacco Shop (Newport and New Bern)
Twin Rivers (Not the mall)
White Sands Convenience Store

OFF-LIMITS ROADS:

Catfish Lake Road

* Identifies a new business added since the last update of the Bulletin.

Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

II MEF Hotline - 451-5555 www.iimef.marines.mil/UnitHome/CommandInspectorGeneral.aspx
MCIEAST Hotline - 451-3928 www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx
TECOM Hotline - (703) 432-1650 www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx
Naval Hospital Hotlines - (910) 450-4240 NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil
MARSOC Hotlines - 440-1045/0941 www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx
New River Hotline - 449-6029.

To report crimes on and off base

To report crimes on and off base, you can call the Crime Stoppers anonymous hotline at 938-3273 or text your tip to TIP4CSJAX + your tip to 274637.

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The
Globe

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New Marine crisis response force takes the reins



Photos by Cpl. Tawanya Norwood

A U.S. Marine with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa 20.2, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, function checks his AN/PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision Device during an alert force training drill on Mórón Air Base, Spain, June 3. SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 is deployed to conduct crisis-response and theater-security operations in Africa and promote regional stability by conducting military-to-military training exercises throughout Europe and Africa. SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 continues to work closely with the relevant medical agencies and military organizations to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, EUROPE & AFRICA

U.S. Marines and Sailors participated in a socially distanced transfer of authority yesterday, marking the passing of the torch from the outgoing Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa to the new contingent.

Col. Denise M. Mull, commander of the outgoing Combat Logistics Regiment 25, passed the SPMAGTF-CR-AF colors to Col. Paul C. Merida, commander of 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. 22nd MEU will serve as the command element for the incoming force, which is comprised of units from

across II Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“I am proud of the hard work and dedication of all of the Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.1,” Mull said of the outgoing force. “Especially during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Marines, Sailors, and their families back home have shown an unfaltering resiliency and professionalism that enabled the SPMAGTF-CR-AF to continue to stand the watch, ready to respond – no matter what.”

The transfer, originally scheduled for early April, was delayed in order to safeguard the health of local Spanish, Italian and

U.S. communities, as well as the Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-CR-AF, who operate out of Moron Air Base in Spain and Naval Air Station Sigonella in Italy. Marines and Sailors at both locations continue to abide by Department of Defense and local health and safety regulations in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 will be postured to respond to a broad range of military operations in the U.S. Africa Command area of operations, including U.S. Embassy reinforcement, fixed-site security, noncombatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster

relief operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, theater security cooperation. SPMAGTF-CR-AF plays an important role in working with African partners to achieve shared security interests, stability, and prosperity.

“We’ve had a very productive turnover with the 20.1 team and we’re ready to take over the mission,” said Merida.

SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 will continue to work closely with relevant military medical organizations in light of the global public health situation to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to Spanish and Italian communities, as well as its assigned Marines and Sailors.



SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 load ammunition during an alert force training drill on the flight line of Mórón Air Base.

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2d Marine Division conducts warfighting strategy training on Camp Lejeune



Photos by Lance Cpl. Patrick King

U.S. Marines with 2d Marine Division prepare to insert into their objective point during a training event at Camp Lejeune, May 27. The training focused on the familiarization with adversary warfighting strategies to effectively train against infantry units.



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Stephen Landry, a rifleman with Adversary Force Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division, provides security around a corner.

Citadel graduate Odom assumes command of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

BY 1ST LT. ANGELICA SPOSATO

II Marine Expeditionary Force

Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Neary relinquished command of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade to Brig. Gen. David L. Odom during a change of command ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, June 5.

Lt. Gen. Brian D. Beaudreault, commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force, opened the ceremony by speaking about the important role the MEB has played in the grand scheme of the Marine Expeditionary Force's mission.

Beaudreault congratulated Neary on his successful tenure as commanding general of 2nd MEB and attributed to Neary and his staff the success of missions across the globe such as: Baltic Operations, Trident Jupiter, Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise and Atlantic Response.

"There have been three things that have been important to the MEF, whether it was command and control, enhancing relationships with allies and partners, and contributing to naval integration. The MEB has been the lead of this formation and making it all come together," Beaudreault said.

Neary said farewell to

his Marines and Sailors, reflecting on his two-year tenure as commanding general. He referred back to his 45-day assessment written when he assumed command of 2nd MEB.

"The quality and diligence of the Marines and Sailors assigned to 2nd MEB continue to impress me," Neary said. "They are a great team, and I am honored to be with them. We stand ready to provide a ready MEB command element prepared for crisis and contingency."

Odom, a Hartsville, South Carolina, native and 1991 graduate of The Cit-

adel, welcomed guests and fellow general officers and sergeants major before his opening remarks as commanding general.

Odom's prior assignment was as the commanding general of Task Force Southwest during Operation Resolute Support in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. A career infantryman, he has held command at all levels, including: 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment during Operation Enduring Freedom, 4th Marine Regiment in Okinawa, Japan and assistant commander of 2nd Marine Division.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Cheyenne Stillion

Sergeant Maj. Don J. Hernandez, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Sergeant Major, passes the colors from Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Neary, outgoing commanding general, to Brig. Gen. David L. Odom, incoming commanding general, during the 2nd MEB change of command ceremony on Camp Lejeune, June 5. Neary is slated to be the commanding general of U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa.

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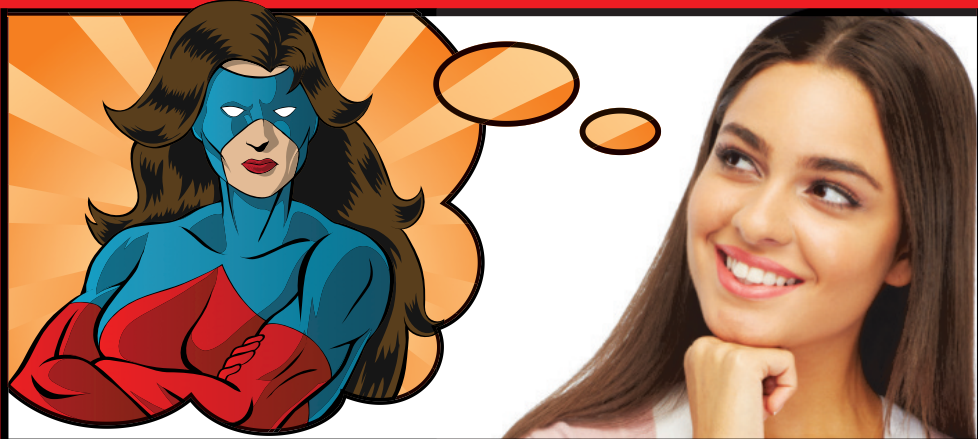
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NCHSAA takes step toward return of sports



Photo by Calvin Shomaker

Lejeune High School senior Darnell Collins, right, throws a pass during a preseason football practice in August, 2019. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association announced on June 8 that member schools could resume individual skill development and workouts beginning June 15 if given permission by their local education agency. Workouts should adhere to Phase One of the NCHSAA's guide to the reopening of sports and activities as well as any other health and safety precautions deemed necessary by the local superintendent and boards of education.

Local education agencies to determine when workouts resume

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

On June 8 the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) announced its current dead period will end on June 15 contingent upon each Local Education Agency okaying the notion. Superintendents and local Boards of Education, the NCHSAA said, “control when they will allow activities to resume.”

The NCHSAA also released part one of a three phased Summer Guide for the reopening of sports and activities. Phase One allows for individual skill development and

workouts by implementing the guide's policies, which include maintaining proper social distancing, cleaning procedures and health monitoring as well as barring physical contact, equipment sharing and grouping, among other rules.

The guide states workouts should be held in “pods of students with the same five to 10 students working out together weekly” in order to limit the risk of exposure to the virus and to enable better contact tracing if necessary. Locker rooms, weight rooms and wrestling mat rooms are to be closed during Phase One.

All coaches and students must be screened daily for symptoms, including temperature checks. Team travel will be prohibited in Phase One as well as spitting of any kind. Hand sanitizer “must be plentiful” and cleaning and disinfecting schedules “must be created and implemented for all athletic facilities,” according to the guide.

The length of workouts are limited to no more than 90 minutes. Outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 people and capped at 10 for indoors with no spectators allowed at any session. Social distancing of six feet or more and the

utilization of masks by coaches are also points of emphasis. Details for the other phases have not yet been released.

For the full guidance provided by the NCHSAA, including further guidelines, limitations, scenarios, protocols by sport and links to additional resources not mentioned in this article, visit www.nchsaa.org.

Please note that this article is a broad overview of the guidelines released by the NCHSAA and is not intended to be referenced as an all-inclusive list. Individuals should view the guide online for the official guidance.

Swansboro's Miller receives Outstanding Coach Award from NCHSAA

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

Earlier this month, Swansboro High School coach and athletic director Kim Miller was given the Toby Webb Outstanding Coach Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Two coaches receive the award annually who have had noticeable impacts on both students and athletes at their school by encouraging them to succeed and learn life skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

In her 23 years at Swansboro, Miller has coached volleyball, girls basketball and softball. She also has served as athletic director, sports medicine and P.E. teacher. During Hurricanes Florence and Matthew she played a large role in helping the emergency response team at the school, which was an emergency shelter.

Miller, a graduate of Southwest Onslow High School, is known as a person who cares deeply for her students and the overall well being of the local community in general.

“Her dedication to [students’] success results in the development of relationships between her and the students as well as the way they treat each other on the court or field,” Swansboro principal



Photo by Strawbridge Studios

Swansboro High School coach and athletic director Kim Miller is a 1991 graduate of Southwest Onslow High School and has taught at Swansboro since 1997.

Helen Gross said in a NCHSAA press release. “Her expectations for their performance, and more importantly, attitude, can be seen in their sportsmanship and school spirit.”

Miller led the Swansboro girls basketball team to an 18-7 record last season.

Southwest Guilford baseball coach Anthony “Reid” Holmes was the male recipient. Holmes has helped provide free baseball instruction to inner-city youth programs in High Point. He has also helped raise thousands of dollars for childhood cancer research.

Each recipient of the Toby Webb Outstanding Coach Award is honored with a commemorative plaque and a \$2,000 cash award.

Honoring Lejeune's spring sports seniors: Boys track



Photo by Calvin Shomaker

Kyle Baldwin, a two-time state pole vault silver medalist in indoor and outdoor track, does hurdles in the final meet of the spring season, March 12.



Photo by Jeff Sides of NCRunners.com

Dylan Presson pole vaults at the 1A/2A state winter track championships in February.

LHS boys won fifth straight 1A East Regional title in 2019

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

We close out our series recognizing Lejeune High School's spring sports seniors with the largest senior group of any team, the boys track team. This group had their sights set on winning medals at the

regional and state levels, including their sixth straight regional team title, but were only able to compete twice this spring.

We honor these seniors by name and will post what additional photos we have online at www.camplejeuneglobe.com/sports.

Lee Balderaz
Kyle Baldwin
Darnell Collins
Ray Feliciano
Tyler Johnson
Dylan Presson

Kyler Roller
Justyn Rollins
Daniel Smith
Levar Taylor
Kamrin Wisherd



Photo by Calvin Shomaker

Kamrin Wisherd runs a relay event at the Coastal 8 Conference (1A/2A) winter track meet in February.



CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2020 Lejeune High

SENIOR CLASS



KAYTREX MARIE ALIGARBES



LEE BALDERAZ, JR.



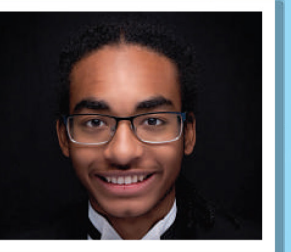
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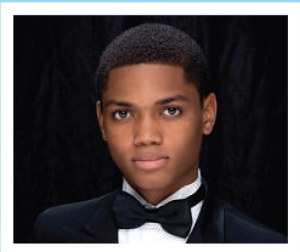
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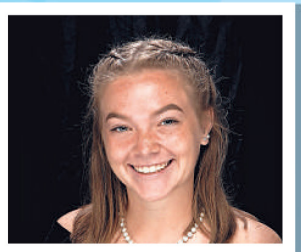
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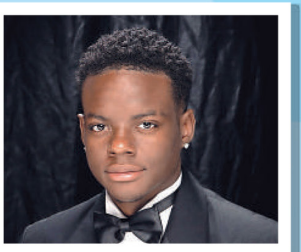
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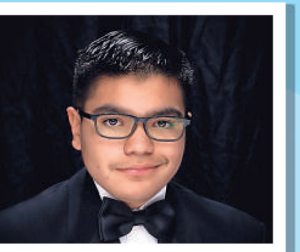
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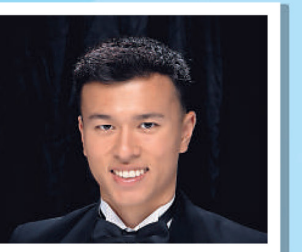
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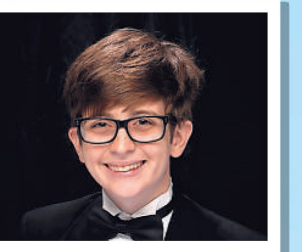
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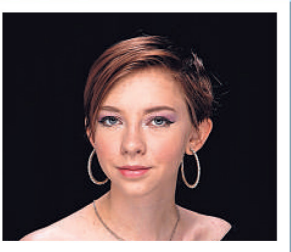
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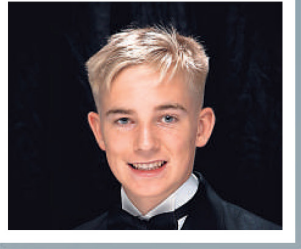
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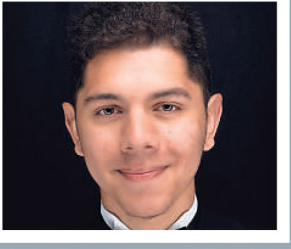
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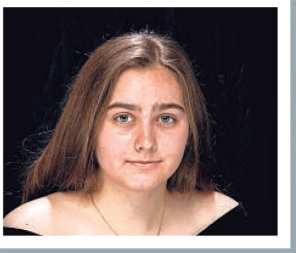
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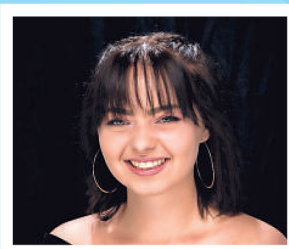
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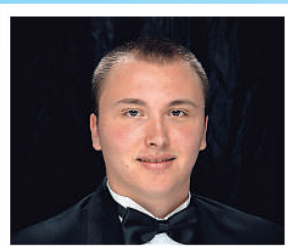
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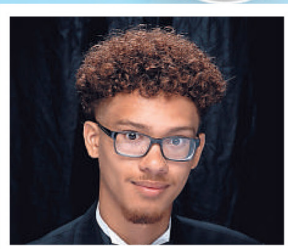
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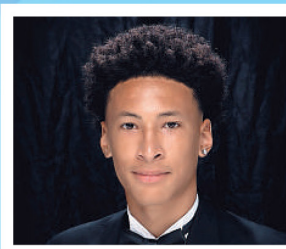
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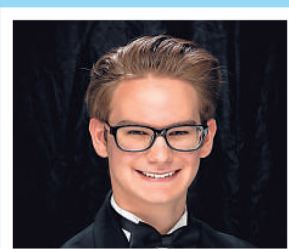
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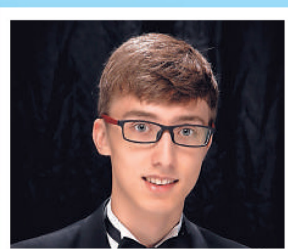
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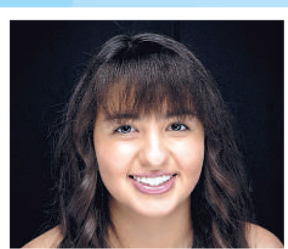
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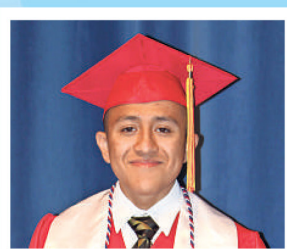
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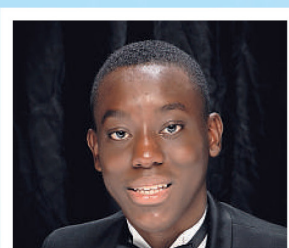
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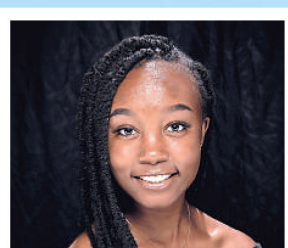
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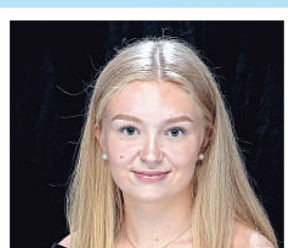
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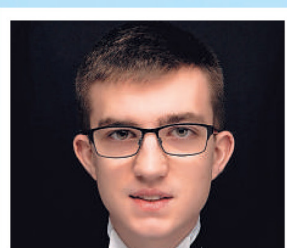
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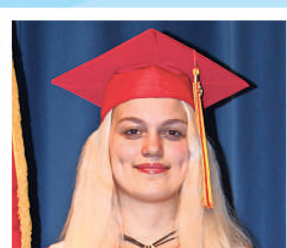
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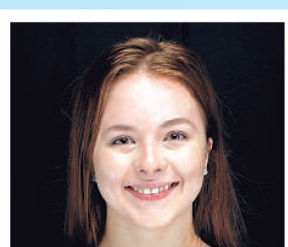
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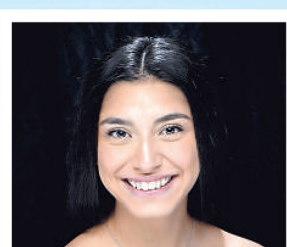
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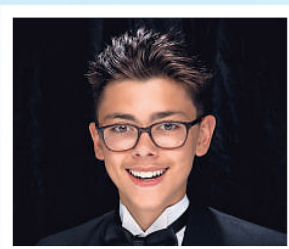
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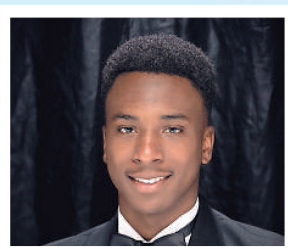
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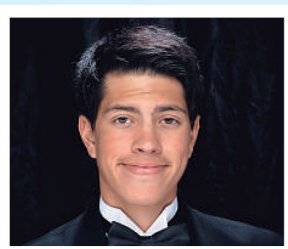
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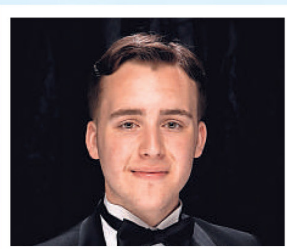
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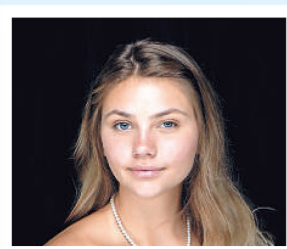
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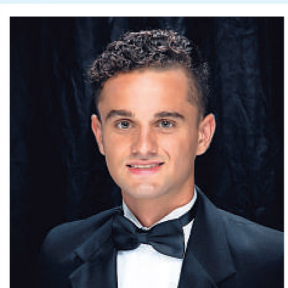
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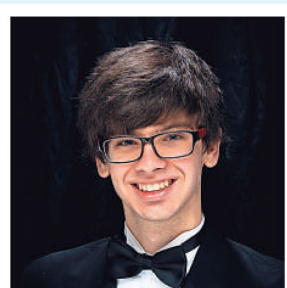
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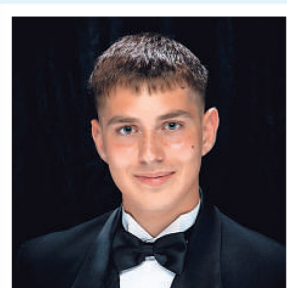
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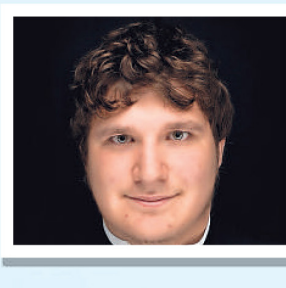
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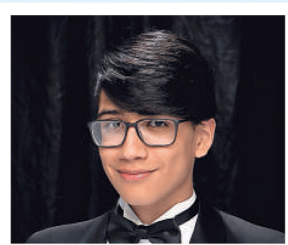
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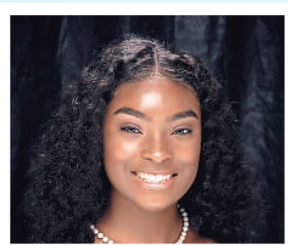
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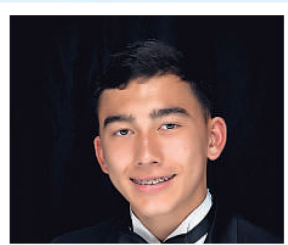
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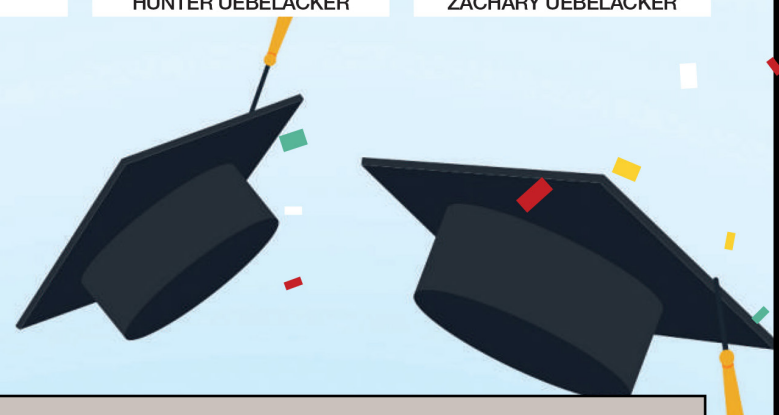
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PART 11

10 years later, 2nd MEB-A remembers service in Afghanistan



Photo by Sgt. Aaron Rooks

Marines with the Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan prepare to board buses, May 3, 2009, shortly after arriving in southern Afghanistan. The Marines will add about 8,000 more service members to those already deployed.

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

From May 29, 2009 to April 12, 2010 the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Over the course of that year, Marines would establish expeditionary installations, train Afghan police and soldiers, take back Taliban-controlled strategic hubs and lay down for posterity new operating procedures for the U.S. Marine Corps.

Part 11: “Into the Snake’s Head”

While Marines at Camp Leatherneck laid down infrastructure, ensured life support functions, secured flight lines and engaged with local leaders, Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and 2nd Light Armored Recon Battalion (LAR) confronted the enemy in strongholds dotted across Helmand’s landscape. Operation Strike of the Sword, otherwise known as Operation Khanjar, paved the way for future operations. Before Khanjar, however, Marines fought for a foothold in the province.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Christian Cabaniss, then a lieutenant colonel and battalion commander with 2/8, recalls the days leading up to the deployment as full of changes.

“2/8 was slated to go to Iraq but we got the news while we were at Twentynine Palms in January or February of 2009 that we were headed to Af-

ghanistan,” Cabaniss said. “When I told the battalion we were going to Afghanistan, they cheered. They knew they were going to establish something there. By the time we got on the planes in May, there was no more cheering. They were stone serious.”

“It was literally at 12:30 we were learning Iraqi (languages) and at 12:31 we were learning Afghan,” recalled Staff Sgt. Darron Dale, then a corporal machine gunner with weapons platoon. “Our company sergeant was handed 25 KIA bags to bring back casualties. He said it was the first time he’d received that.”

Within an hour of landing, 2/8’s Echo Company had sustained their first casualty, Lance Cpl. Charles “Seth” Sharpe.

“We were the first assault team on the ground,” Dale said. “We were establishing the perimeter and ended up being under attack for about 23 hours. Our first casualty was about 30 minutes in, about 200 meters from the bird. I saw him go by on a gurney and the corpsmen shaking their heads. Younger Marines were asking what was happening but, as a leader, I told them to just keep firing.”

The two months leading up to Operation Khanjar saw relentless combat.

“Golf and Echo were immediately involved in heavy combat,” said Cabaniss. “Fox company headed north. Golf company had no cold water for about 70 days. I’ll hand it to Gen. (Larry) Nicholson, they figured out how to freeze a pallet of water, put it under a helicopter and transport it in the desert.”

Taliban insurgents were dug in for the initial surge of Marines in Afghanistan, having already engaged with British soldiers who’d taken over from the 26th MEU’s establishment of Camp Rhino. The turnover between Brits and Marines was rather seamless, according to Dale, and allowed Marines to get established both with the locale and working amid the MEB’s ad-hoc facilities.

“It was a great handover,” Dale said. “We worked an AO (area of operations) handover with allies and would have daily sit reps at Camp Dwyer. Our AO was from the Helmand River to Pakistan, along the Ring Road, so we initially patrolled the whole AO to get a feel for what was around it, see who was hostile and see who we were helping.”

The language barrier Marines ran into came, in part, from training.

“The locals spoke Dari and we knew Pashto,” Dale said. “They felt like we were speaking down to them. We had a local who helped us out in understanding. Over the course of the deployment I learned Dari.”

A language barrier was not the only challenge faced by 2-8, and one of its most crucial would come in the Taliban stronghold of Garmsir.

Ed Note: Next week’s installment will focus on 2-8’s crucial role in Operation Khanjar. If you, or someone you know, was part of 2-8, 1-5, 2-3 or 2nd LAR during 2009-2010 please contact Pat Gruner at pgruner@camplejeuneglobe.com.



Photo by Cpl. Daniel Flynn

The Marines of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, force their way through shin-high mud, patrolling to their objective during a cordon and knock operation in Helmand province July 28, 2009.



Photo by Cpl. Michael Curvin

Marines with MEB-A leave a compound after speaking with the residents, Aug. 10, 2009.

Lejeune High seniors to mark graduation with local “cruise”

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

While concerns surrounding COVID-19 may have derailed the Lejeune High School Class of 2020’s senior year, and likely any

summer vacation plans, seniors are maintaining their good spirits with a different kind of cruise. Instead of taking to the high seas, students and their families will have a chance to take a drive around Marine Corps Base

Camp Lejeune as a group.

This “Senior Cruise” will take place on MCB Camp Lejeune, June 13, starting at 9 a.m. Coordinated by local parents, the event aims to give seniors a proper send off into their respec-

tive futures. Starting at the high school, cars will travel down Stone Street to Seth Williams Boulevard, down Kent Road and back up Brewster Boulevard to finish the loop.

Seniors are asked to meet

at 8:30 a.m. in the back bus loop. Students are also encouraged to be driven by a parent, legal guardian or older sibling in lieu of driving themselves. To practice proper social distancing, students should only ride

with those they have been quarantining with.

Cars can be decorated in a school-appropriate manner. Base residents are invited to line the route and show their support for the Class of 2020.



“Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy”

CHAPLAIN’S COLUMN

BY LT. CMDR. HAYES PERDUE

2nd Marine Logistics Group

The room was dark. No lights were flickering. Nearly a dozen people huddled together in an attic. Below them they could hear authoritative voices, firmly asking questions. No one dared move. To be found out would mean certain death if the Nazis were to find them. Anne Frank and her Jewish family lived secluded lives with sympathetic Gentile friends who risked all to hide them from a barbaric government. For two long years, they followed a very systematic routine so that they would not make noise and be discovered. Eventually, they would be found, and they would die in a concentration camp. However, during their time of hiding, Anne, a young 13 year-old girl, wrote about her hopes, her ambitions, her crush and her dreams for the future. As the days dragged on and the difficulty of perpetual monotony wore her down, she wrote a line in her diary that speaks boldly to us today, as we traverse life with COVID-19. “Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.”

Her statement is shocking. It is radical. When considered in her context, it would seem to be unattainable. Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy. The first word tells us to be cognizant and choose how we direct our mental energy. Often, our minds drift. We bound from one thought to another, but when we are intentional in the direction of our thoughts, we seem to gain control. We have choice where our thoughts

go. Instead of thinking of negative, pessimistic thoughts, she challenges us to think of all the beauty. According to Webster, beauty is “the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit.”

Where do you find beauty? The spring flowers, the warm sunshine bouncing off the green grass? Do you find beauty in friendships, neighbors who wave and add “good morning”? Perhaps you find beauty in your spouse, your children, or your grandchildren. Wherever you find beauty—think about that beauty with gratitude in your heart.

Then she adds, “still left around you.” Some of us have had many beautiful people or things in our lives that have since been taken away. While we can be thankful for our memories, Anne challenges us to look for the beauty in the Now. Not the beauty of yesterday or tomorrow. Look for the beautiful now...currently in your life. Often, pondering yesterday’s beauty leads to sadness and melancholy, but finding beauty in your current circumstance will take you to a much better place. So, how hard would it be for you to take a mental vacation from the current crisis and start looking for the beauty in your life? A flower. A conversation. A pretty dress. A moving song. A letter from a loved one. Be active in your pursuit. Marvel at your discoveries. Then, enthusiastically share your



findings with another.

“And be happy.” Is this another challenge? One, “Think of beauty.” Two, “Be happy.” I do not think Anne is telling us to

do two things. I think she is saying that happiness is the result of appreciating the beauty that we find. As you seek out beauty and verbally appreciate

it to others, the natural result is happiness.

Can you think of three things in your life that are beautiful? Can you articulate with sincere apprecia-

tion the beauty you find to a trusted friend? When you do, notice how you feel. I’m guessing you may be feeling happy. A welcome change for many of us.

Whole Vet to hold first annual Virtual Transition Day

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

With a kibosh on large gatherings local service organizations are getting creative with the ways they support the community. For Whole Vet, a group focused on aiding veterans, transitioning service members and spouses, is holding Virtual Transition Days June 18

and 19 for those seeking their next step.

“I want to bring as many resources to bear to serve as many active duty, vets and spouses as we can,” said Dale Robbins, president of Whole Vet. “I don’t envision anyone will join a conference call for a day and a half, so we are breaking that into rooms and sections.” Subjects will include

setting up the GI Bill for education, insight from veterans and a chance to engage with local, state and federal employers.

The event will begin at 12:30 p.m., June 18. For a full agenda of events, and to register, visit <http://www.wholevet.org/> and look for the banner titled “Virtual Military Transition Event.”

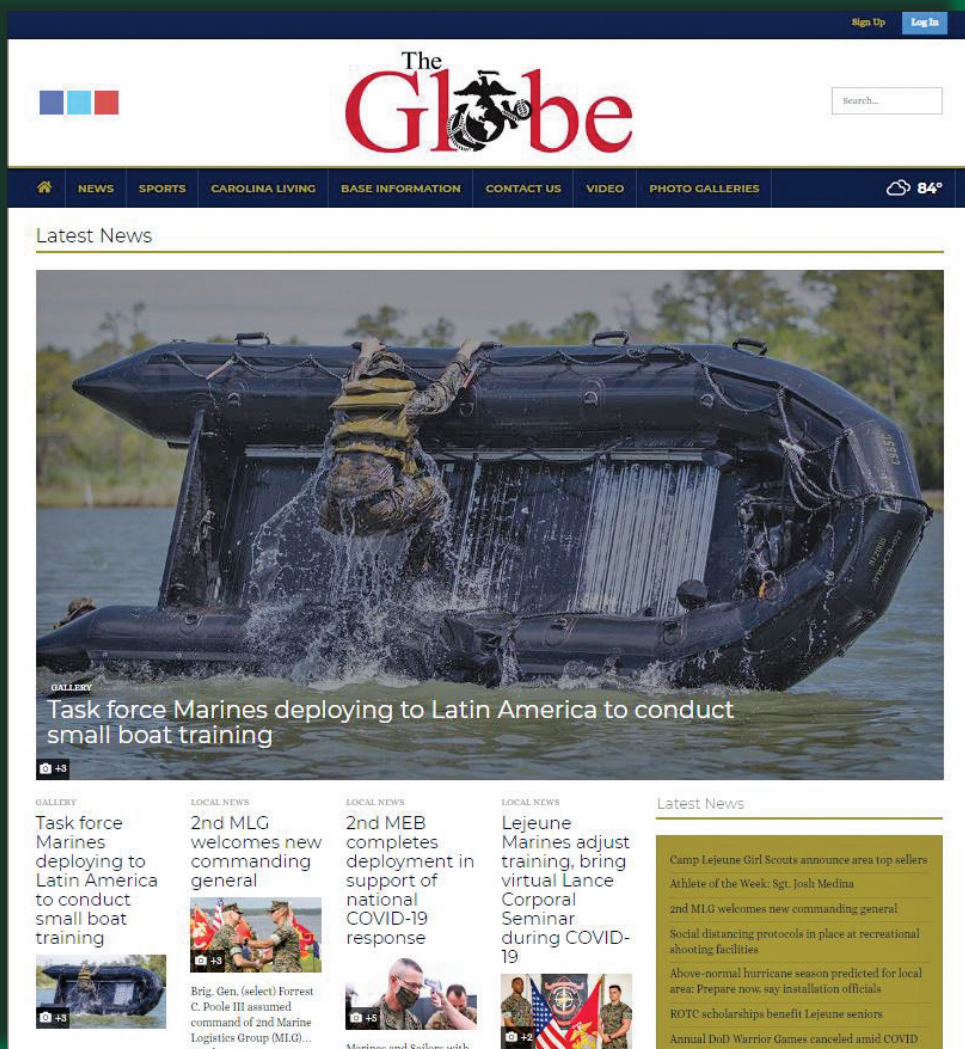


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- www.newriver.marines.mil/
- www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl/Pages/default.aspx

SOCIAL MEDIA



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- @mcasnewriver
- @NMCCLejeune



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KAYLA LAZARO	LU LE	GEORGIA LEE	ENRIQUE MARTINEZ	LAUREN MCCLANE	CAROLINE MORGAN	DEVIN MORLEY	LACIE MORSE	WILLIAM OSBORN	ABIGAIL PAQUIN	NEVAEH PERAZA RODRIGUEZ	TAYLOR POUND
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NICHOLAS SIMON	ETHAN SKILLINGS	DANIEL SMITH, JR.	LAUREN SMITH	KAYLA STEVENS	ISABELLA STONE	ASHLEY TAGLE	LEVAR TAYLOR	DON TURNER III	DON TURNER	HUNTER UEBELACKER	ZACHARY UEBELACKER

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